Wednesday's Jackpot
$11,000,000 estimated
LOTTO 649

COMEDY IN 140 CHARACTERS OR LESS
COMEDIANS POPULAR ON TWITTER {page 16}

LUCKY LINDSAY
JUST WARNING FOR SPEEDING
{pages 20-21}

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JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

▶ Rachel Antolic, 14, cools down yesterday by running through the fountains at Yonge-Dundas Square as temperatures hit 32 C and the city issued an extreme heat alert.

Weird and wonderful summer

Storms, cloudy days worked to reduce smog, says Ontario environment ministry spokesperson Less pollution coming from south of the border also helped

The likelihood that the city could see its first-ever September heat alert is another reason summer 2010 will go down in the books as weird and wacky, but wonderful.

With temperatures projected to hit a high of 33 C both today and tomorrow, it's likely the city's heat alert — issued Sunday and upgraded to an extreme heat alert yesterday — could carry into September for the first time since the current City of Toronto warning system was put in place in 2001.

Add that to the list of lucky weather factors that made summer in Toronto, by most accounts, idyllic.

For one thing, we had higher than average rainfall — and no one noticed.

At a total of 191.6 mm, June had the highest ever recorded rainfall. July also had higher than normal precipitation.

But according to Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson, the common perception is that we broke heat records instead. In truth, the average temperature during June, July and August was 21.6 C — the seventh warmest three-month period since weather records began in 1937.

"In Toronto's case we had record-setting (rainfall), but it doesn't appear to have dampened — bad pun — the impression people have of how great the summer was."

GEOFF COULSON, ENVIRONMENT CANADA METEOROLOGIST

The reason the rain went mostly unnoticed, Coulson says, is that much of the rain fell over night, and was concentrated into the span of fewer days. In June, for instance, nearly one-third of the month's rain fell June 27.

One of the only downsides to hot conditions, however, is usually an increase in smog. But another one of this summer's oddities is, despite the hot temperatures, the ministry has issued fewer smog alerts. As of yesterday, only three advisories covering 10 days had been issued in Ontario. Of those, only two have affected Toronto: One was issued yesterday, and the other during a five-day heat wave in July.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports

Not guilty: Clemens

Faces charges including three of making false statements, two of perjury and one of obstruction of Congress Pitcher's trial set for April 5 {page 30}

Smaller ISPs get up to speed

Win access fight against cable, phone giants {page 12}

TTC leaves out career colleges

Schools excluded from pass for post-secondary students {page 3}

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Yonge Elgin Centre
SCARBOROUGH
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2650 Lawrence Ave. E, Unit 2B
1900 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit E5A
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
Flemingdon Park Shopping Centre
Unit 10
The Oriental Centre
THORNHILL
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Promenade Mall
Shops on Steeles
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Cedarbrae Mall
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Woodside Square
Dragon City Mall
421 Dundas St. W, Unit G8
Dufferin Mall
Gerrard Square
228 Queen's Quay W
1015 Lakeshore Blvd. E
1821 Queen St. E
275 College St.
548 Church St.
604 Bloor St. W
1348 St. Clair Ave. W
1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
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Oshawa can't afford Ticats: Council

Cold cash has cooled football fever in Oshawa.

At a meeting of the strategic initiatives committee yesterday morning, councillors rejected the idea of building a stadium for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats because Oshawa doesn't have the money.

"The taxpayers of this city cannot afford a $200-million stadium," said Coun. Nester Pidwerbecki. "There's no way we wouldn't be caught putting millions into this thing. Oshawa can't afford these types of boondoggles."

Last week, Coun. Robert Lutczyk excitedly proposed to offer the CFL team a new home after Tiger-Cats owner Bob Young told Hamilton they could be leaving over a dispute about the site of a new stadium.

Lutczyk suggests building it near Highway 401 in Oshawa as a venue for the 2015 Pan Am Games soccer matches, later to become the permanent home of the Tiger-Cats, renamed Titans, if he has his way.

He said most of the facility's cost would be paid by the CFL and the Tiger-Cats, and the stadium could also be used for concerts, monster trucks, and other sports events.

But most of his colleagues had already made up their minds, reinforced by city manager Bob Duignan's warning there's no room in Oshawa's financial plan or debt load for another major project.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Oshawa Coun. Robert Lutczyk fumed over committee's "wrong and undemocratic" decision to deny several residents and a former CFL executive a chance to speak on the possibility of moving the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Career colleges left out of new TTC pass

Students tend to be lower-income adults looking for extra training or new careers while unemployed

The Toronto Transit Commission says students enrolled in private career colleges across Toronto are ineligible for the new discounted monthly pass for post-secondary students.

The exclusion has angered the Ontario Association of Career Colleges, calling the move "unfair" and "discriminatory" for the more than 40,000 students enrolled in private career colleges in Ontario.

"These are some of the neediest of the post-secondary students, some are on UI (unemployment insurance), others are participating in government-sponsored career programs," says John Nunziata, a spokesperson for the association that represents about 250 schools mostly in the GTA.

$7M The cost to the TTC for the monthly post-secondary pass is nearly double the initial projections — up to $7 million annually, compared with an earlier projection of about $3.8 million.

Nunziata estimates there are 10,000 to 15,000 private college students in Toronto. "It means a lot of money to them, especially to those that are unemployed and anxious to start a second career."

The pass, which became available Aug. 24, provides a discount for full-time or part-time degree or diploma students at $99 a month for the transit card.

The TTC's website says students in post-secondary certificate programs are not eligible for the pass. A regular adult monthly pass costs $121.

TTC chair Adam Giambrone says the exclusion had to do with budgetary concerns and the complexities of keeping track of the numerous private career college programs, where students may only be enrolled for a couple weeks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TESS KALINOWSKI/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ TTC char Adam Giambrone says the TTC may consider looking to include private career college students as part of the budget for 2011.

No lobbying in MMA: McGuinty

Ontario's premier says the only unregistered lobbyists bending his ear on mixed martial arts are his children. Dalton McGuinty is facing opposition allegations that illegal lobbying played a role in his decision to allow MMA fights in the province.

The NDP has asked Ontario's integrity watchdog to investigate, and speaking yesterday in Kitchener, McGuinty said he is willing to put the decision under scrutiny. "I would welcome any such inquiries on the part of the integrity commissioner or anybody else, because I am absolutely confident that nothing untoward took place."

"Perhaps those who ought to have been registered as lobbyists would be my three sons and my one daughter, who have been lobbying on this incessantly for a long time."
DALTON MCGUINTY

NDP justice critic Peter Kormos wrote two letters to commissioner Lynn Morrison about whether unregistered lobbying may be going on.

The Ontario Liberal party is advertising a $250-a-ticket fundraiser Oct. 19 hosted by former premier David Peterson and his colleague Noble Chummar, who is a registered lobbyist for Ultimate Fighting Championship. The close relationship between UFC, Chummar and Peterson raises questions, given the government is developing rules around mixed martial arts, Kormos has said.

Peterson has called the suggestions of wrongdoing "scurrilous" and "factually incorrect."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Peter Kormos

1 news

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CRIME

Teens charged in Hummer chase

Two 14-year-olds were due in a Milton court yesterday after three police cruisers were damaged while trying to stop a stolen Hummer.

Police say the Hummer, which was stolen in the Niagara region, was first spotted on the Queen Elizabeth Way in Oakville.

Officers tried to intercept it several times, but police say the driver intentionally collided with the cruisers and kept heading for Niagara.

The Hummer left the highway and officers ended the chase because of safety concerns, then spotted the SUV in a mall parking lot in east Hamilton.

Police arrested the youths in a nearby restaurant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weston to purchase U.S. bakery

Two years after selling off its U.S. fresh-food bakery business, George Weston Ltd. is sinking its teeth into America's Keystone Bakery. The Toronto-based food services giant said yesterday the $185-million US transaction will be made through its subsidiary, Maplehurst Bakeries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bike caught travelling 130km/h

A man has an October court date after provincial police clocked a motorcycle doing 50 kilometres over the speed limit in eastern Ontario. Police say a motorcycle was travelling at 130 kilometres per hour Saturday on a county road near Campbellford.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rossi vows to push for right to recall

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Toronto mayoral candidate Rocco Rossi is promising to seek legislation to enable recall votes in Toronto if he's elected in October.

High-profile spin doctor Warren Kinsella is now Rossi's adviser

Toronto needs recall legislation so disgruntled voters can fire their mayor or councillors before the end of their four-year-term, says mayoral candidate Rocco Rossi.

Rossi said yesterday morning that, if elected Oct. 25, he will ask the Ontario government to pass the legislation enabling recall votes for Toronto.

British Columbia is the only province in Canada that has a recall law, similar to those that exist in some U.S. states. A petition is started by a registered voter and, after a decreed number of signatures is reached, a vote can be held to remove a politician from office.

Citing the anger many voters have expressed at city hall and Mayor David Miller's left-leaning council, Rossi said recall is one way to stop handing a mayor and councillors a "blank cheque" to do what they want for four years.

"We can channel the anger and cynicism into positive action."

ROCCO ROSSI

He vowed to have a plan to the province within six months of taking office.

Rossi had no details on how the recall would be implemented for Toronto, saying the threshold for a vote is all-important, and would be set only after town hall meetings and other consultation with Torontonians.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COMMUTER ALERT

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McGuinty aims for top marks from students

Province not meeting standardized test goals because Ontario students need higher marks, premier says

The world might be content with a passing grade, but Ontario has set its sights higher, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday in defending why a two-year-old target for standardized test scores has not been met.

Figures released by the Education Quality and Accountability Office show 68 per cent of students in Grades 3 and 6 are meeting the standards in reading, writing and math, up from 67 per cent in the previous year.

But that's still short of the 75 per cent target the governing Liberals wanted to meet for Grade 6 students by 2008.

Results

- The results, released yesterday, show more students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 have met provincial standards on tests in reading, writing and math.
- At least 70 per cent of students met the standard in Grade 3 writing and math and Grade 6 reading and writing.

Speaking at a newly constructed school in Kitchener, McGuinty said that in other parts of the country and the world the standard is simply passing.

In Ontario, the standard is a B, or 70 per cent.

"If we said the Ontario standard was going to be a C, or 60 per cent, 93 per cent of Ontario students are meeting that standard right now," McGuinty said.

McGuinty said his government set its sights on that level so students will be well equipped for post-secondary study.

"We want them to have the tools and the level of proficiency so they can actually graduate from high school and, if they so choose, go on to an apprenticeship, college or university," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Licence deadline looming

Tomorrow is the deadline the Ontario government set for licence extensions because of the DriveTest strike last year.

People who needed to take driving tests to requalify for their licences were stuck when examiners walked off the job.

The examiners went back to work in early January, but motorists were given until Sept. 1 to book a test.

While drivers didn't receive any notices in the mail about the deadline, the ministry says the information was posted on both the MTO and DriveTest websites.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

51K

The Ministry of Transportation says there are about 51,000 licences provincewide that still need to be renewed.

▶ Premier Dalton McGuinty

POLITICS

DALTON MCGUINTY JOINS TWITTER

"Premier Dad" has launched himself into the Twitterverse.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is taking another step towards shedding his stuffy image by joining Twitter.

By 5 p.m. yesterday, McGuinty's account had racked up more than 950 followers.

Twitter will allow the premier to "speak directly with Ontarians about what he's up to and where he's travelling, and talk about the government's latest initiatives," his spokeswoman, Jane Almeida, said in an email.

"On the good advice of friends and family, I've decided to join the Twitterverse," the premier declared in his maiden Tweet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Read the premier's tweets at twitter.com/Dalton_McGuinty

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NEWS FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO

STARTING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010,
WE'RE MAKING CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN AND BUS SERVICES

1 – LAKESHORE WEST GO BUS
Sunday and holiday Monday trips will resume between Aldershot GO Station and McMaster University.

9 – LAKESHORE EAST GO TRAIN
The weekday westbound trips that depart Oshawa GO Station at 5:09 p.m. and 5:18 p.m. will now depart at 5:11 and 5:22 and times will be later at all stops along the route.

12 – NIAGARA FALLS GO BUS
Eastbound trips to Burlington will depart earlier. Westbound trips to Niagara Falls will depart five minutes later.

19 – OAKVILLE HWY. 403 GO BUS
A new weekday westbound trip will depart Finch GO Bus Terminal at 5:05 p.m., serve Yonge & Sheppard at 5:12, and then run express to Square One arriving at 6:00 p.m. Plus, there are some time changes to reflect actual travel times.

21 – MILTON GO TRAIN & BUS
The 6:10 p.m. weekday westbound train from Union Station will now depart at 6:15. Times will be five minutes later at all stops along the route including the arrival at Milton GO Station at 7:13 p.m.

We've added some new weekday eastbound bus trips to Union and some afternoon eastbound bus trips from Milton to Union will run express from Meadowvale and Erindale.

25 – WATERLOO GO BUS
We've added four new eastbound trips from the University of Waterloo to Square One on Fridays and two new trips from Square One to Waterloo on Saturdays. At the Cambridge Smart Centre, buses will now only stop upon request for passenger drop-off.

29 – UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH GO BUS
Changes to some weekday trips and the Sunday and holiday Monday trips will resume.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO TRAIN & BUS
The 6:45 p.m. weekday westbound train from Union Station to Mount Pleasant will now depart at 6:50. Times along the route and for the connecting bus from Mount Pleasant to Georgetown will also be adjusted.

The 10:00 p.m. weekday westbound bus from the Union Station GO Bus Terminal will now only serve the Malton and Bramalea GO Stations. A new 10:10 p.m. weekday westbound bus trip from Union will run express to Steeles & Rutherford, serve Shopper's World and the Brampton GO Station.

The Friday trips from the University of Guelph to Brampton will resume.

32 – BRAMPTON TRINITY COMMON GO BUS
A new weekday westbound trip from Yonge & Sheppard will arrive at Bramalea GO Station at 4:15 p.m. then continue to Trinity Common. This trip connects at Bramalea with the 3:30 p.m. train from Union Station.

34 – BRAMPTON LOCAL, HWY. 27 & 427 GO BUS
There will be some earlier departures for trips between Brampton GO Station and York Mills. All trips will now serve the Bramalea GO Station instead of the stop at Steeles & Bramalea.

46 – HWY. 407 WEST GO BUS AND 52 – HWY. 407 EAST GO BUS
There will be some earlier departures on weekday trips and the Sunday and holiday Monday trips will resume.

61 – RICHMOND HILL GO TRAIN
The weekday northbound 6:40 p.m. train from Union Station will now depart at 6:45 and times will be five minutes later at all stops along the route.

The weekday northbound 7:45 p.m. train from Union will now depart at 7:40 and times will be five minutes earlier at all stops along the route.

65 – BARRIE BRADFORD GO BUS
A new weekday northbound trip will depart Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 8:40 p.m., serve the Aurora Carpool Lot, Aurora GO Station, the Newmarket GO Bus Terminal, and arrive at the East Gwillimbury GO Station at 9:50.

Two new weekend and holiday southbound trips will depart the Newmarket GO Bus Terminal at 1:40 p.m. and 2:40 p.m., serve the Aurora GO Station and Car Pool Lot and arrive at Union at 2:40 and 3:40.

Two new weekend and holiday northbound bus trips will depart Union at 2:40 p.m. and 3:40 p.m., serve Aurora and arrive in Newmarket at 3:40 and 4:40.

There will also be changes to many trips including some earlier departures.

66 – NEWMARKET HWY. 400 GO BUS
There will be changes to some weekday trips including earlier departures.

69 – SUTTON GO BUS
There will be changes to some trips including earlier departures.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO BUS
A new weekday southbound trip will depart Lincolnville GO Station at 4:30 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 5:45.

A new weekend and holiday southbound trip will depart Lincolnville at 7:40 a.m., serve all stops, and arrive at Union at 8:40.

A new weekend and holiday northbound trip will depart Union at 6:10 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive into Lincolnville at 7:20.

There will also be changes to many trips including some earlier departures.

93 – DURHAM COLLEGE – UOIT GO BUS
Service will resume between Scarborough Town Centre and campus.

94 – OSHAWA HWY. 2 GO BUS
There will be changes to some trips including earlier departures from most stops along the route.

96 – OSHAWA HWY. 401 GO BUS
There will be changes to most trips including some earlier departures. To better meet customer demand, some westbound trips will now start at the Ajax GO Station and some trips from Oshawa will no longer serve Ajax so be sure to check the new schedule for your new travel options.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT GOTRANSIT.COM.
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TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

Stroller hit by dump truck

Toronto police were at the scene of a busy downtown intersection after a woman pushing a baby stroller was hit by a dump truck at the corner of Bay and Gerrard streets in front of horrified onlookers yesterday.

Const. Wendy Drummond says there were no obvious injuries to the baby, who is about one year old, but the child was taken to Sick Kids hospital as a precaution.

The woman — believed to be the child's grandmother — is being treated at another hospital.

Drummond says her injuries, if any, are non-life-threatening.

There was no immediate word on charges and police are still investigating. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top U.S. court may hear local firm's case

$290M If the U.S. high court decides not to hear the case, Microsoft will have pay a total of $290 million US in damages that was awarded to i4i at a jury trial in Texas last August.

The patent battle between small Canadian tech company i4i and software giant Microsoft Corp. was always expected to be a legal fight to the finish.

But after several rounds in the lower courts and a big damage claim awarded to the Canadian company by a Texas jury, the dispute could be going all the way to the United States Supreme Court if Microsoft gets its way.

"We're in this to assert and enforce our patent rights," i4i chief technology officer Michel Vulpe said yesterday, responding to Microsoft's move late last week to get the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

"We see that not only as an issue for us, but as an issue all patent holders to have their rights enforced and to make it clear that companies ... like Microsoft, despite their resources, simply can't walk over small patent holders," said Vulpe, of Toronto-based i4i.

Microsoft wants the U.S. high court to hear the case, involving some versions of Microsoft's Word software program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On set. Might as well go for a soda

▶ Actor Channing Tatum grabs a cold soda to cool off during a break filming The Vow on Baldwin Street yesterday. The romantic drama, which also stars Rachel McAdams, is in production here until mid-October.

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Judge OKs Magna share deal

An Ontario court has rejected an appeal by some Magna International shareholders of a controversial $1-billion plan to buy out founder Frank Stronach's voting control of the company.

The opposed shareholders say they're disappointed with the ruling by the Ontario Superior Court, but they won't appeal the decision.

This means the plan should be finalized shortly, as Magna and Stronach have the right to walk away from the deal if it isn't concluded by the end of the month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

High school's high cost

Workbooks, classroom supplies being paid for out-of-pocket: Survey

Most Ontario high schools are charging students "user fees" for classes like French, art, business, music or science, says a report obtained by the Toronto Star that also found boards around the province rake in more than half a billion a year through fundraising.

As well, more parents are fundraising for renovations, additions or upgrades to their children's schools — capital needs once considered something board budgets should cover — with 15 per cent of all school councils reporting such activity, says the People for Education report to be released this morning.

Based on boards' own audited financial statements, People for Education found they raised $592 million through "a combination of fees, fundraising, vending machines, donations from businesses and other revenue sources." Boards in Greater Toronto alone raised $238 million.

The increased reliance on fees and private fundraising raises the concern that it is leading to a system of "have" and "have not" schools.

Fees

Percentage of Ontario high schools charging fees for workbooks, materials, software and other items for the following classes:

- Art: 56%
- Phys ed: 36%
- Design/tech: 33%
- Music: 23%
- Family studies: 22%
- Languages: 16%
- Science: 13%
- Business: 7%

Rules around fundraising and student fees are under review provincially, but as it stands now students cannot be asked to pay for something they need in any course, although that appears not to be the case in all boards.

Education ministry spokesperson Patricia MacNeil said fees cannot be charged for textbooks, course materials or registration, but boards can charge for voluntary activities such as extracurricular sports or field trips.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Find us on Facebook under Marché Cow

club metro

Soldier injured by IED blast dies in hospital

Last Canadian killed in Afghanistan, Sapper Brian Collier, also slain by IED while patrolling same area

A Canadian soldier who was injured in an IED blast last week while on patrol in Afghanistan died yesterday at a hospital in Germany, military officials say.

Cpl. Brian Pinksen, a member of 2nd Battalion with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, was wounded on a patrol in the Panjwaii district of Kandahar on Aug. 22.

Pinksen was wounded along with another soldier, whose name was not released, while patrolling near the village of Nakhonay, about 15 kilometres west of Kandahar city.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Cpl. Brian Pinksen

That soldier, who was serving with 1st Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment battle group, was on foot just a few hundred metres from the gate of a nearby operating post on a route traversed daily by Canadian and Afghan soldiers.

A Department of National Defence statement said Pinksen was treated by medics at the scene, and then evacuated to the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield, then later to a military hospital at Ramstein military base in Landstuhl, Germany, where he died from his wounds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics. Getting ready

▶ Zita Astravas, a member of the Liberal Express Team, adjusts a Canadian flag in preparation for the arrival of the Liberal Express tour bus and Federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff yesterday in Baddeck, N.S.

MIKE DEMBECK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberals to meet in Nova Scotia

Some Liberal MPs at a caucus retreat in Cape Breton say time is running out on Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government. Other MPs are more cautious, arguing that Liberals still have more work to do to earn the confidence of voters. Still, they all seem to agree that Michael Ignatieff's summer-long, cross-country bus tour has left Liberals more pumped and more prepared for an election, if need be, than at any time since he became party leader two years ago.

OPP on the hunt for lifted guns

Provincial police are anxious to track down four guns stolen during a break-in near Sarnia between Aug. 17 and Friday. Police say no other items of value were taken from a shed in Brooke-Alvinston.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil facilities releasing toxins: Study

A new study shows oil-sands facilities are sending heavy metals into the air and water in northern Alberta. The study found metals such as lead and mercury are already above levels that are dangerous to fish. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police fire at anti-India protesters

Police opened fire at rock-throwing anti-India demonstrators yesterday, killing an 11-year- old boy and sparking violent street protests by thousands of Kashmiris in India's portion of the region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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680 Rexdale Blvd, Unit 4
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4320 Kingston Rd
2131 Lawrence Ave E

NDP plan to save long-gun registry a total misfire?

Layton's proposal near identical to one set forward by Liberals RCMP says program 'useful tool' for cops

NDP Leader Jack Layton proposed new legislation to change the long-gun registry yesterday, but he may have just shot himself in the foot.

His ideas were almost identical to changes proposed by the Liberals months ago.

Both parties have been struggling with how to defeat a Tory private members' bill to abolish the registry while not alienating the chunks of their constituencies who support the program.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton speaks about the long-gun registry yesterday.

Each see room for compromise in changing the penalties for non-registration to start as non-criminal fines and no charges for registering guns, and Layton has also pledged to protect Aboriginal treaty rights.

But while Ignatieff's changes would apply only if a Liberal government was elected, Layton wants his new bill to pass immediately in order to stave off the final vote on the bill to kill the registry altogether.

Layton, under extreme pressure as the leader now on the hook for the registry's fate, attempted to dodge the political fallout yesterday.

"If we make the changes that can allow urban, rural and northern Canada to feel that they are not being slapped in the face, that their legitimate concerns about the registry are being understood, then we have a win-win scenario," Layton said at a news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greece. Minks

▶ A farm employee holds a mink after catching it yesterday near the northern Greek city of Kastoria.

NIIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some released minks caught

More than 50,000 minks were set loose over the weekend after raids by suspected animal rights activists on two fur farms. Greece's National Fur Breeders' Association said most of the released animals are likely to die.

Slovak gunman kills 7 and himself

A gunman went on a rampage in Slovakia's capital of Bratislava yesterday, killing seven people and wounding 15, then committed suicide, officials said. Five of the people killed were members of a Roma family who lived in an apartment where the man began his attack with a machine-gun and two pistols, said Interior Minister Daniel Lipsic.

Roma, also known as Gypsies, often face discrimination in eastern Europe, but Lipsic and police chief Jaroslav Spisiak said the unidentified gunman's motive was not known.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

15

People wounded in the rampage, including a three-year-old boy, who was shot in the ear.

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News in brief

'You will be beaten': Putin

RUSSIA. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin disparaged Russian dissidents in crude street language in an interview yesterday and said they would keep getting beaten if they continued to hold unauthorized rallies. "You will be beaten upside the head with a truncheon. And that's it," he declared. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

No charges in abuse claim

TREATMENT. Ontario Provincial Police say they won't lay charges after an investigation into allegations a Nova Scotia teenage boy was abused at a treatment facility. The 15-year-old was being treated for behavioural disorders at the facility in Ontario. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Fewer people on gov't payroll

JOBS. Statistics Canada says public employment slipped in comparison to overall employment in the second quarter of the year. StatsCan said 20.3 per cent worked a government job in the second quarter, down from 20.5 per cent in the previous quarter. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Be patient with jail sex probe, says B.C. mayor

Scan code for story, or visit metronews.ca

Juror in hot water over Facebook post

On Aug. 11, a day off from trial and before prosecution finished its case, she wrote on Facebook it was "gonna be fun to tell the defendant they're guilty"

▶ A Michigan juror could be found in contempt after writing on Facebook that a defendant was guilty before the trial ended.

A judge removed a juror from a trial in suburban Detroit after the young woman wrote on Facebook that the defendant was guilty. The problem? The trial wasn't over.

Hadley Jons, of Warren just north of Detroit, could be found in contempt when she returns to the Macomb County circuit court Thursday. Jons, 20, was a juror in a case of resisting arrest.

The post was discovered by defence lawyer Saleema Sheikh's son.

Circuit Judge Diane Druzinski confronted Jons the next day and replaced her with an alternate.

"You don't know how disturbing this is," Druzinski said, according to The Macomb Daily.

A message seeking comment was left for Jons yesterday.

"I would like to see her get some jail time, nothing major, a few hours or overnight," Sheikh said. "This is the jury system. People need to know how important it is."

Without Jons, the jury convicted Sheikh's client of a felony, but couldn't agree on a separate misdemeanour charge. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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CRTC brings small ISPs up to speed

Smaller providers were pioneers of retail Internet industry But were quickly overtaken by larger firms

Canada's big telephone and cable companies must provide the highest broadband speeds available when they sell access to smaller Internet service resellers, the telecom regulator ruled yesterday.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) said companies that own the nation's Internet infrastructure, such as Bell or Rogers, can no longer hoard those high speeds for themselves. The commission said the decision helped safeguard the principles of public access and greater competition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRTC rules

- **Large telephone** companies such as Bell will be permitted to charge a 10 per cent markup on the costs of providing access to their highest speeds.
- **Cable companies,** such as Rogers or Videotron, are already charging a sufficient markup for their service, CRTC says.
- **Smaller ISPs,** the CRTC ruled, will not be allowed to gain access to broadband networks at the source. They remain subject to the traffic management techniques used by the big telephone and cable companies.

Computers. Branching out

Intel Corp.'s headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Intel spreading its wings

Intel Corp. is buying the wireless communications unit of Germany's Infineon Technologies for $1.4 billion US in cash, the second deal in as many weeks that allows the chipmaker to spread its wings beyond the struggling personal computer market. It scooped up security software maker McAfee Inc. earlier for $7.68 billion. Infineon's unit makes chips for smartphones, including Apple's iPhone.

Canadians switch to bigger vehicles

Canadians were in a vehicle-buying mood in July, according to figures in the latest Global Auto Report from Scotia Economics.

The report says Canadian sales advanced to an annualized 1.65 million units in July, lifting volumes at several automakers to the highest July on record. It was the second monthly rebound in a row after a weak performance in May.

Scotia Economics says the recent improvement in sales has led it to raise its full-year 2010 Canadian sales forecast to 1.565 million units from 1.525 million.

29

Small cars traditionally dominate the Canadian market, but their share of the market has slumped to less than 29 per cent so far this year — the lowest level in more than a decade — and down from a peak of 35 per cent in 2008.

The bank also says Canadians are shifting away from small cars, with segment volumes declining two per cent year-over-year through July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
+ 15.83 (11,895.55)	– 0.72¢ (94.30¢ US)	– 47¢ US ($74.70 US)	$3.812 (+ 10.7¢) Gold contracts $1,237.10 (+ $1.50)

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Boston	Travel Sep 14 - Sep 21/pd	$151 + taxes & fees $123
Bahamas	Travel Jan 3 - Jan 10/c6	$154 + taxes & fees $246
New York	Travel Sep 14 - Sep 21/pd	$172 + taxes & fees $124
Vancouver	Travel Sep 8/ac	one-way $185 + taxes & fees $86
Chicago	Travel Sep 15 - Sep 20/pd	$191 + taxes & fees $125
Jamaica	Travel Sep 10 - Sep 17/wg	$195 + taxes & fees $278
London	Travel Oct 18 - Oct 25/ts	$199 + taxes & fees $406
New Orleans	Travel Nov 10 - Nov 17/ws	$278 + taxes & fees $125
Belize	Travel Nov 4 - Nov 11/aa	$489 + taxes & fees $349
Lima	Travel Nov 2 - Nov 11/ac	$678 + taxes & fees $382
Cape Town	Travel Nov 8 - Nov 22/sa	$958 + taxes & fees $532

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St Pete Beach Air + 4 Nights $399

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INCLUDES beachfront resort accom with kitchenette in St Pete Beach. Departs Sep 26/ggv/dl.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights $499

Hotel Beresford + taxes & fees $131

INCLUDES Union Square accom with breakfast. ADD Wine Country tour for $73. Departs Nov 1/ggv/dl.

Boston Fall Colours Air + 3 Nights 4-Star $589

Westin Boston Waterfront + taxes & fees $124

Departs Oct 18/ggv/dl. ADD Fall Foliage or Autumn On The Cape day tour for $67.

Vacations

Havana Air + 7 Nights 4-Star **$205**

Aparthotel Montehabana + taxes & fees $220

Departs Sep 10/swg/wg.

Bahamas Atlantis Air + 3 Nights 5-Star $489

Atlantis Paradise Island + taxes & fees $161

INCLUDES accom at the famous Atlantis Paradise Island. Departs Sep 24/wsv/ws.

Dublin Air + 7 Nights 4-Star $859

Croke Park Hotel + taxes & fees $256

INCLUDES accom walking distance to Grafton Street and Templebar district with breakfast daily. Departs Oct 15/vat/ts.

Hong Kong Air + 8 Nights 4-Star $1199

Metropark Hotel Causeway Bay + taxes & fees $230

INCLUDES central accom with internet and city shuttle. Departs Nov 4/ggv/dl. ADD Harbour Lights with dinner cruise for $70.

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Buenos Aires Air + 6 Nights $1329

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Departs Oct 2/nol/ts.

Varadero 7 Nights 3.5-Star $227

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Departs Sep 12/nol/c6. ADD one child age 2-12 years for $99 plus taxes.

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 4-Star $237

Grand Paradise Playa Dorada + taxes & fees $332

Departs Sep 17/nol/c6.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4.5-Star $347

Catalonia Bavaro Beach, Golf & Casino Resort + taxes & fees $332

Departs Sep 10/nol/c6. ADD two children age 2-12 years for $99 each plus taxes.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star $397

Catalonia Yucatan Beach Resort & Spa + taxes & fees $283

Departs Sep 11/nol/c6.

Panama 7 Nights 4-Star $397

Royal Decameron + taxes & fees $245

Departs Sep 13/nol/c6.

Cancun 7 Nights 4.5-Star $490

Great Parnassus Resort & Spa + taxes & fees $283

Departs Sep 12/sqv/ws.

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FTCO

AJIT SOLANKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A shopkeeper displays BlackBerry smartphones in Ahmadabad, India.

BlackBerry ban averted in India

Developments echo Saudi Arabia's decision earlier this month to suspend a planned ban after reprieve

India said it withdrew a threat yesterday to ban BlackBerry services for at least two more months after the device's maker, Research In Motion Ltd., agreed to give security officials "lawful access" to encrypted data.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which wants real-time access to encrypted corporate emails and instant messaging, said in a statement it would review RIM's security proposals over the next 60 days after the Department of Telecommunications studies the feasibility of routing BlackBerry services through a server in India.

It remains unclear precisely what concessions Research In Motion agreed to in order to avert the ban. The Waterloo, Ont.-based tech company had no immediate comment about the decision by the Indian government.

About one million BlackBerry users would have been affected in India by the ban.

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PULLING THE PLUG ON TOXIC FRIENDSHIPS

She says ...

JESSICA NAPIER

Good girlfriends are hard to find. There are the ones you love with all of your heart, and then there are the ones you kind of love ... to hate.

Let's be honest, we've all known them at one point in our lives. A toxic girlfriend is one who is unreasonably jealous or ultra competitive. She is the friend who flirts a little too much with your boyfriend and always has a way of subtly putting you down. She's unreliable, inconsiderate, manipulative and a little bit wacko. More foe than friend, a poisonous pal will contaminate your free time with her dramatic behaviour and Mean Girls inspired antics.

Of course, these stressful relationships rarely start out this way — only a masochist would voluntarily sign up for this kind of emotional abuse.

Like a long-term romance, a friendship is constantly changing and evolving. Every once in a while a perfectly platonic partnership becomes a bit unbalanced. When you're so close to the situation it's hard to recognize when a one-time BFF turns bitter, slowly eroding your self-esteem one thinly veiled insult at a time.

It should be easy to realize that you should dump a self-absorbed drama queen like a barrel of hazardous waste. But when it comes to frenemies we tend to make excuses for their abhorrent behaviour in the hope that one day they might grow out of it. The longer we endure these unhealthy relationships the more trapped we feel.

"While a soured friendship might be exhausting to maintain, it is even more difficult to end."

While a soured friendship might be exhausting to maintain, it is even more difficult to end. There's no handbook when it comes to breaking up with a gal pal. Ideally, you should have an honest conversation where both parties reveal their true feelings and, ultimately, hug it out. But let's face it; most of us are not that mature. Confrontations like this are uncomfortable and awkward, and usually end in tears on both sides.

I usually opt for the more cowardly route. I allow these friendships to disintegrate over a slow, excruciating period of ignored phone calls and geographic evasion tactics until she eventually gets the hint. Yes, this is a childish and passive-aggressive way of dealing with my feelings, but avoidance seems so much less unpleasant than all that crying.

However, at the end of the day, life is too short (and far too busy) to spend so much time dodging that best friend gone bad. The older we get, the more we realize who those true friends really are. So, perhaps it's time to get real and let that bad girlfriend know you're just not that into her anymore.

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

High rollers learn early

Worth Mentioning

Cashing in

GETTY IMAGES

The Thai government is publishing a new series of parenting brochures that instructs families how to keep their children from gambling on soccer matches, after kids as young as seven were found betting on the World Cup.

"The Guide to Watching Football With Your Children and Loved Ones," will be the first in a three-part series to be distributed at schools nationwide in October, Thanakorn Komkris, a co-ordinator at the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, said yesterday.

The agency, which is under the Prime Minister's Office, is sponsoring the series that uses cartoon characters to convey that professional soccer can be a fun family event — and one that sometimes requires parent supervision.

The new guide will be aimed at children of primary school age and teens and will seek to inform them of the dangers of gambling, while trying to motivate youths with "inspiring stories from world-class football players," Thanakorn said.

Gambling is illegal in Thailand, technically, but it remains a national pastime. Betting is common at sports events, at underground casinos or along the Cambodian border where casinos have flourished in recent years to cater to Thai customers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finish this sentence: To be successful, you must ...

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Metro Minute at The Mad Italian

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The Mad Italian at 1581 Bayview Ave. is so successful, a new College Street location is opening this fall.

Finding a gelato bar run by actual Italians in this city can be as tricky as finding sushi prepared by an actual Japanese chef. That's why The Mad Italian Gelato Bar owner Alessandro Settimi imported his mamma straight from Rome, where she's been a gelato-churning superstar for almost three decades.

Mamma's hand prepares all 42 flavours every day in the back using the Cadillac of gelato-making machinery. While pistachio has been a perennial favourite, it's also the only place in the GTA where you can get a proper scoop of Stracciatella (true gelato lovers will know exactly what this means). Best of all? A licensed patio.

JORDANA DIVON

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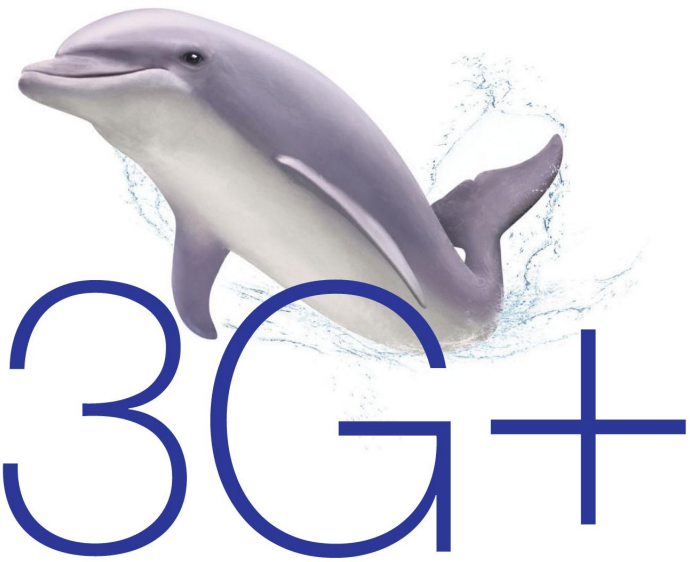

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Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
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2 scene

News in brief

Brad Pitt is the NFL's voice for its upcoming documentary on the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl victory.

Pitt narrates NFL Films' documentary, America's Game: 2009 New Orleans Saints, about the team's win over the Indianapolis Colts last February. The film debuts on the NFL Network on Sept. 8, the night before the Saints begin their title defence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anna Nicole Smith drug case resuming with uncertainty over testimony by nannies.

Funny men and women are using Twitter to connect with fans, test out joke or just rant ● Conan O'Brien tweeted to 1.4 million followers as an outlet after being ousted from The Tonight Show ● Jimmy Fallon leads the comedy charge with 2.7 million followers

AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Comedian Michael Ian Black is one of the funniest regular Twitter users, with more than 2,500 tweets and counting.

Comedy in 140 characters or less

Earlier this summer, Michael Ian Black took to his blog to defend himself against those appalled that the comedian was — gasp! — inserting rare advertisements to his popular Twitter feed.

Black explained that occasionally hiring himself to sell products "allows me the freedom to take less well-paying jobs like making soon-to-be-cancelled television shows."

Then he made a more serious point.

"As of today, I've written 2,655 tweets," Black wrote. "That's a lot of free material, all of it contributing to the entertainment of the 1.5 million people who follow me, as well as the multibillion dollar capitalization of Twitter itself."

Black is not alone in his situation. Many of the most popular people on Twitter are comedians, and they are collectively perhaps the best. They know how to be economical with words, and they write about more interesting topics than what they had for breakfast.

But comics have a different relationship to the social networking website. It is, after all, their job to make brief, pithy observations and craft precisely worded one-liners. Like news outlets, comedians have to question how much "content" they want to tweet away.

Black says he recognizes some downside to giving away material for free, but believes the pros far outweigh the cons.

"For me, it does two things," Black says of tweeting. "One, it gives me the chance to try out jokes. And two, it forces me to write jokes in the first place."

Black, who came up as a member of the State comedy troupe and has since worked in film, TV and released several books, is also chief content officer for WitStream, a website founded by TV producer Lisa Cohen that gathers the Twitter feeds of only established comedians. Black compares it to a relaxed comedy club, as opposed to Twitter's open mic.

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Top tweets from the comedy world

A few examples of top-notch tweeting:

▶Nealon

• "I've grown tired of firework displays. China, please come up with something else for our country." — Kevin Nealon.

• "I have a Far Side cartoon almost done of a movie theatre packed with disappointed deer watching Salt." — Mindy Kaling.

• "The Muzak version of Careless Whisper in this lobby has turned a bad song into a sonic hate crime." — Patton Oswalt.

• "Either the gnomes in our garden are real or someone just hit me in the head. Oh, wait. It's just the booze. Forget I said anything." — Paul Feig.

• "Walking in New York I make eye contact with people's dogs more than with people." — Kristen Schaal.

• "When you read Self magazine aren't you always a little disappointed that there's nothing about you in there?" — Jim Gaffigan.

• "This is my twitter cycle: Tweet, tweet more, tweet worse, stop tweeting, regret tweets, swear never to tweet again. Wait. Tweet. Repeat." — Louis C.K.

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The Audio Files

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

BTO BACK IN OVERDRIVE

When I was growing up in Winnipeg it was guaranteed that at least once a day you'd hear a Bachman Turner Overdrive song on the radio. Not only did the band produce some of the best drive-home music ever made, but when the city's rock radio station was done playing 12 Led Zeppelin songs in a row, they'd throw on some homegrown tunes. That meant a lot of Guess Who and BTO.

I'm more of a Guess Who fan, but I was still excited to hear that Randy Bachman had recorded a new album with Fred Turner. It's always a bit strange when a band you liked puts out a new album – it's usually not very good, and I'm grateful that Randy and Burton Cummings have stuck to the hits, but somehow the duo's self-titled, released next week, sounds vintage BTO.

I spoke to Turner this summer and asked him why they chose to replicate their sound – he says it was all Randy. "He wanted to go back to the '70s mindset," Turner explains. It had a lot to do with the chemistry between the two musicians, he says; it felt like nothing had changed since 1973, when the band wrote their huge hit Takin' Care of Business.

Of course, a lot has changed. Bachman left the band after 1975's Four Wheel Drive, tried to start something new with Turner in the early 80s, joined BTO again briefly, then Turner left; BTO was in a perpetual state of near collapse until Turner officially called it quits in 2004.

Bachman and Turner "had our moments" over the years, he says. "We had a nine year lawsuit through the 90s." It was eventually settled, but even in the midst of the legal proceedings, the old friends found a way to play together. Turner recalls a time when Bachman had to play a gig in Winnipeg and wasn't confident with his backup musicians. He called his former bandmate and asked him to join him, which he did.

Whatever happened between them seems to be history. Luckily, though, Bachman and Turner won't get the chance to return to their old ways – this isn't a full-time gig. Turner says that while he's excited to play he's got no intention of becoming a career musician again.

"I don't want to be as busy as Randy likes to be," he says. "He's still going 200 miles an hour and I'm a long way from that. I said this is your thing, you work it the way you want and I'll be there. It's actually taken off so strong that it's become a bit too busy for me. But I'm still willing to go with it."

F-bomb song is just edgy art, says Cee Lo

- Song has been streamed 3.7M times in 11 days
- Parent group calls it 'the bottom of the barrel'

Cee Lo's expletive-laden song has been criticized for being in poor taste, but the musician says it's actually a work of art.

"What I've tried to accomplish, like, is making art products ... so I still believe that (the song) can be classified as art because it's an original piece and the edge and alternative is there, and the integrity is intact," he said in an interview last week.

The song, about a gold-digging ex, is titled "(Expletive) You" and he drops 16 f-bombs in just 3 1/2 minutes over a sweet-sounding, retro groove.

An official video will be released this week and the song will appear on Cee Lo's album The Lady Killer, out on Dec. 7.

▶ Cee Lo

Though the jam has gotten rave reviews, it's also had its share of criticism. Dan Isett, the director of public policy for the Parents Television Council, said in a statement that the song "is just the latest example of an entertainment industry bent on racing to the bottom of the barrel."

But Cee Lo said he was trying to elevate music with the song, and it's something that the music industry does not do enough.

"The system does not, you know, advocate art so to speak, but it does package and promote products and product placement and there's a definitive difference between the two, art and product," he said.

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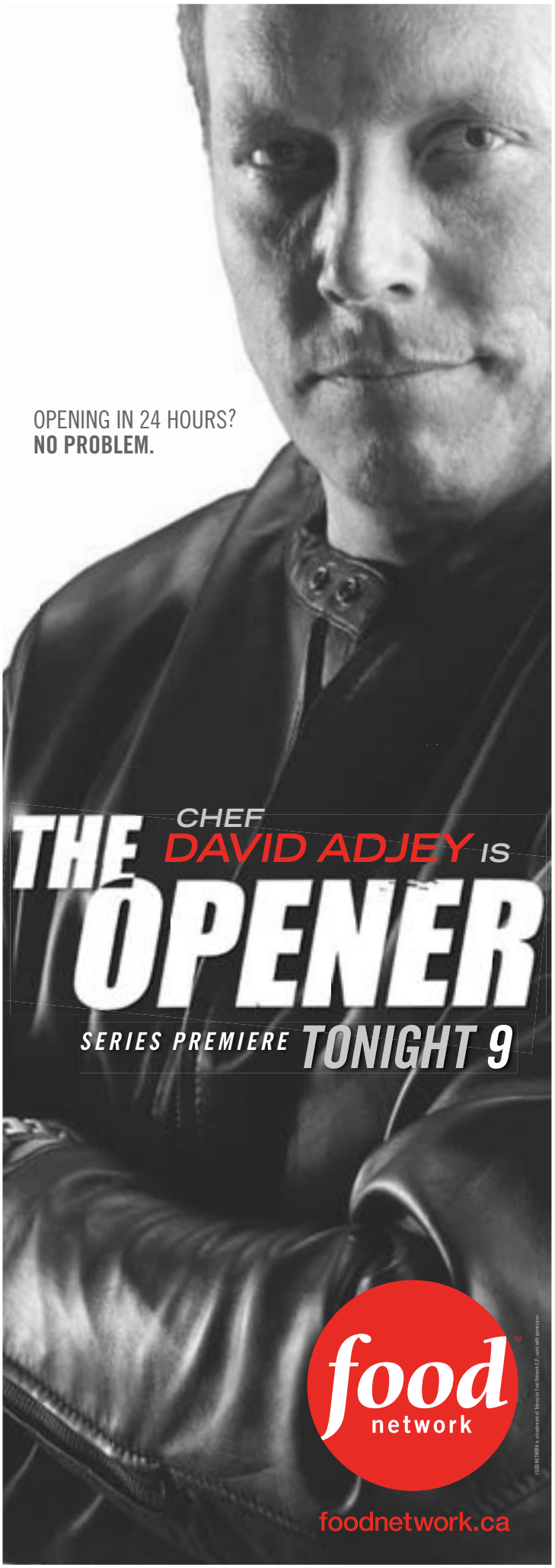

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Caine gets revenge

Harry Brown
Genre: Thriller
Director: Daniel Barber
Stars: Michael Crain, Emily Mortimer
●●●

Four decades after Clint Eastwood made cynical sport of lawless punks, Michael Caine dons the Dirty Harry mantle to administer rough justice on the grimy streets of Blighty.

His Harry Brown is a bottled-up ex-Marine whose stopper has been yanked by one too many neighbourhood outrages.

Recently widowed, which only partially explains his dour character, Harry is content to just live the rest of his days on a meager pension in his small public housing flat in London's East End.

He's not blind to the drug dealing and violence of the young punks who rule his rough-and-tumble housing estate, but neither is he inclined to do anything about it.

The knives come out after Harry's close pal Leonard (David Bradley) unwisely chooses to use a pedestrian tunnel the gang members consider their personal domain.

There's no turning back from the outcome, either for the gang or for the suddenly motivated Harry, whose warrior instincts are graphically reawakened.

PETER HOWELL

The Wild Hunt
Genre: Thriller
Director: Alexandre Franchi
Stars: Ricky Mabe, Tiio Horn, Mark A. Krupa
●●●

Most of the fundamentals are covered in this tale of medieval role-playing gone awry: a strong cast, great story and convincing costumes and sets. But the pluses are almost undone by wildly uneven camera work, lighting and editing. Mark A. Krupa is Viking-obsessed Montrealer Bjorn, who has become so involved in running amok for fun, he's lost all connection with real life. Even with its many technical drawbacks, The Wild Hunt remains an impressive achievement and a testament to unbridled imagination.

PETER HOWELL

Babies
Genre: Documentary
Director: Thomas Balmes
Stars: Bayar, Hattie, Mari, Ponijao
●●●

Can you saw "awwww" in four different languages? Actually, it's all the same wherever you are, and that's precisely the point of this beguiling documentary by French filmmaker Thomas Balmès. He follows four infants from different parts of the globe, tracking them from birth to age one. The babes are from Tokyo, San Francisco, Namibia and Mongolia, two from cities and two from rural regions. Insights aren't deep, unless you're looking for affirmation of the truism that people are the same all over.

PETER HOWELL

Hollywood inspiring Broadway

There was a time when Hollywood turned to Broadway for movie ideas, transforming such shows as Chicago, The Sound of Music and Amadeus into box-office gold and Oscar winners.

These days, theatre producers look to the film community for juicy stage projects, turning movies like Billy Elliot, The Producers and Hairspray into Tony winners.

The new Broadway season is no exception. Among shows opening this fall are Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark, based on the comic book and movie franchise; Elf: The Musical, inspired by the outrageous Will Ferrell comedy; and Pedro Almodovar's 1988 film farce, Women on the Edge of a Nervous Breakdown.

Meanwhile, Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical, adapted from the 1994 road movie about drag queens and a transsexual and their cabaret act, opens for a pre-Broadway run in Toronto on Oct. 26. It was first adapted for the stage in 2006 for a run in Sydney, and most recently had a successful turn on London's West End.

Many eyes, though, are on the $50 million-plus Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark, which was in the works for six years and long hung in limbo as it jumped financial hurdles. Based on the Marvel comic book hero, Spider-Man features music and lyrics by Bono and The Edge, with a book by its director, Julie Taymor, and Glen Berger.

U2's Bono and The Edge are cutting their teeth writing show tunes. The jump may not be so far, given the appeal of the hit series Glee and its occasional ability to transform rock anthems into show music. So it's not hard to believe that the Irish rockers can retrofit their stadium-oriented rock into the more intimate musical theatre.

The big budget musical extravaganza boasts one of the highest budgets in Broadway history and bursts with producers that include Marvel Entertainment and Sony Entertainment.

Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark begins previews on Nov. 14, and will open on Dec. 21.

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TRISTRAM KENTON PHOTO

▶ Tony Sheldon in the London production of Priscilla. The play is based on a 1994 movie.

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▶ Judges Corbin Tomaszeski and Anthea Turner watch the dining action from a van outside.

Competitive dining arrives

Take three couples with nothing in common ◐ Add one executive chef and one etiquette expert as judges ◐ Mix and make them compete

The scene in the kitchen is, as one observer puts it, "Armageddon."

Pots, pans, cutlery and dinnerware are strewn about as spouses David Axelrad and Brigitte Talevski scramble to finish a huge international tasting menu — with wine tailored to each dish — for four near-strangers in a north Toronto house.

"People try to get these big, complicated, really ambitious menus and they're way in over their heads."
CORBIN TOMASZESKI, CHEF, HOLTS CAFE, TORONTO

"What are we going to do about candles? Are we doing anything about candles?" Axelrad, 47, an editor, asks while decanting wine and setting the table.

"Are we going to do candles? I don't know!"replies Talevski, 51, a transplant social worker who is sauteeing and simmering over a hot stove on a sweltering summer evening. The chaos recently took place during a taping of the 13-part series Dinner Party Wars, which debuts Wednesday on Food Network Canada.

Similar to the hit British series Come Dine With Me, each episode sees three couples who are strangers host a three-hour dinner party for each other over three nights in and around Toronto. As the dinners unfold, famed Toronto chef Corbin Tomaszeski and British "style and etiquette queen" Anthea Turner watch the action via video feed inside a trailer parked outside. They judge everything from the menus and presentation, to the flavours of the food and the etiquette and entertainment.

Guests tell how they think their hosts are doing via a private video confessional booth that's set up in the home. On the final night, they all watch what each has said about one other.

The winner gets $1,000 worth of cookware.

"I always say: 'Start with keeping it simple and then build your way up versus going way too big too fast,'" Tomaszeski — executive chef at Toronto's Holts Cafe at Holt Renfrew — said in an interview in the basement as Axelrad and Talevski cooked upstairs. Axelrad and Talevski's competition included married farmers who are in their 40s and two 23-year-old students.

Turner said the show is "quite naughty" in pairing up couples who hail from very different backgrounds.

"The chances are that these three couples wouldn't ordinarily be sitting around a table together so ... it's funny from that point of view." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

TV Picks

Bieber takes on Shaq

CONTEST?. Teen idol du jour, Canada's Justin Bieber, takes on Shaquille O'Neal in Shaq Vs. O'Neal tries to outsing and dance Bieber in the episode and also takes on Jimmy Kimmel, attempting to deliver a better monologue than the talk show host. (CTV) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A family destroyed

DOCUMENTARY. The acclaimed documentary Life With Murder explores how an Ontario couple dealt with the murder of their young daughter, which was followed by the arrest and conviction of their son for her death. The documentary includes home-video footage shot over a 10-year period and was directed by Emmy winner John Kastner. (CTV) **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

THIS WEEK AT THE EX!

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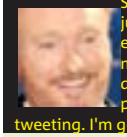
Paris Hilton
[@ParisHilton] I'm so thankful to all my fans for all the love and support you are giving me. Thank you all. Love you so much. Love Paris xoxo

Samantha Ronson
[@samantharonson] Can't believe I just got to work and had the wrong purse. Instead of a laptop I found a bag of ..... Well, u know.

Conan O'Brien
[@ConanOBrien] Someone just explained to me that I don't get paid for tweeting. I'm going to miss you guys.



Ben Stiller
[@RedHourBen] Is there a decoder book for Glenn Beck speeches?

Jackson to be exhumed?

Autopsy cause of death ▶ Family 'dreading' idea of digging up remains

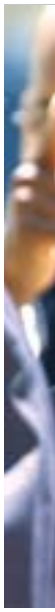
Michael Jackson's remains may have to be exhumed for further testing in connection with the manslaughter trial of Dr. Conrad Murray, according to News of the World.

Murray lawyers reportedly want to challenge the findings of the original autopsy, arguing that misuse of other drugs brought about Jackson's death, not the drugs administered by Murray.

"If the tests don't concur with the coroner's findings, they have the start of a strong defense," a source says. "The logical next step would be to exhume the body to make new tests."

Jackson's family is reportedly "dreading" such a situation. "They laid Michael to rest and for him to return is just sick," a friend of the family says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Paris' boyfriend is unemployed

It hasn't been the best week for Cy Waits, Paris Hilton's new boyfriend. First he was arrested for driving under the influence in Las Vegas over the weekend — when Hilton herself was busted for cocaine possession — and now he may be out of a job, according to E! News. Waits had recently been promoted to head of nightclub operations at the Wynn Hotel in Vegas, and sources say he was fired within hours of his arrest. METRO

Neil Patrick ready for fatherhood?

Neil Patrick Harris is spending his time studying and resting in anticipation of the arrival of his and partner David Burkta's twin babies due in the fall, according to People magazine. "[I'm] very, very excited. It's the big, crazy calm before the ridiculous storm," Harris says. "I'm trying to read as much as I can, and prep as much as I can. But there's only so much you can do because each baby is super individual and totally their own person."

METRO

▶ Neil Patrick Harris, left, and partner David Burkta

PawnStars

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

▶ Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, wants to argue the singer died of misuse of other drugs.

George Michael looking for credit for rehab

After pleading guilty to marijuana possession in connection with his July car crash in London, George Michael is hoping the fact that he checked himself into rehab immediately after the accident will help with next month's sentencing, according to Popcrunch.

"I feel you should know that on the day after the incident I checked in to a clinic for a 14-day detox program here in London, which has been followed by ongoing outpatient drug counseling several times a week," the singer posted on his Web site. "Personal problems which I had tried to deal with myself had clearly got the better of me, and I am sorry that my pride has prevented me from seeking help before now." METRO

▶ George Michael

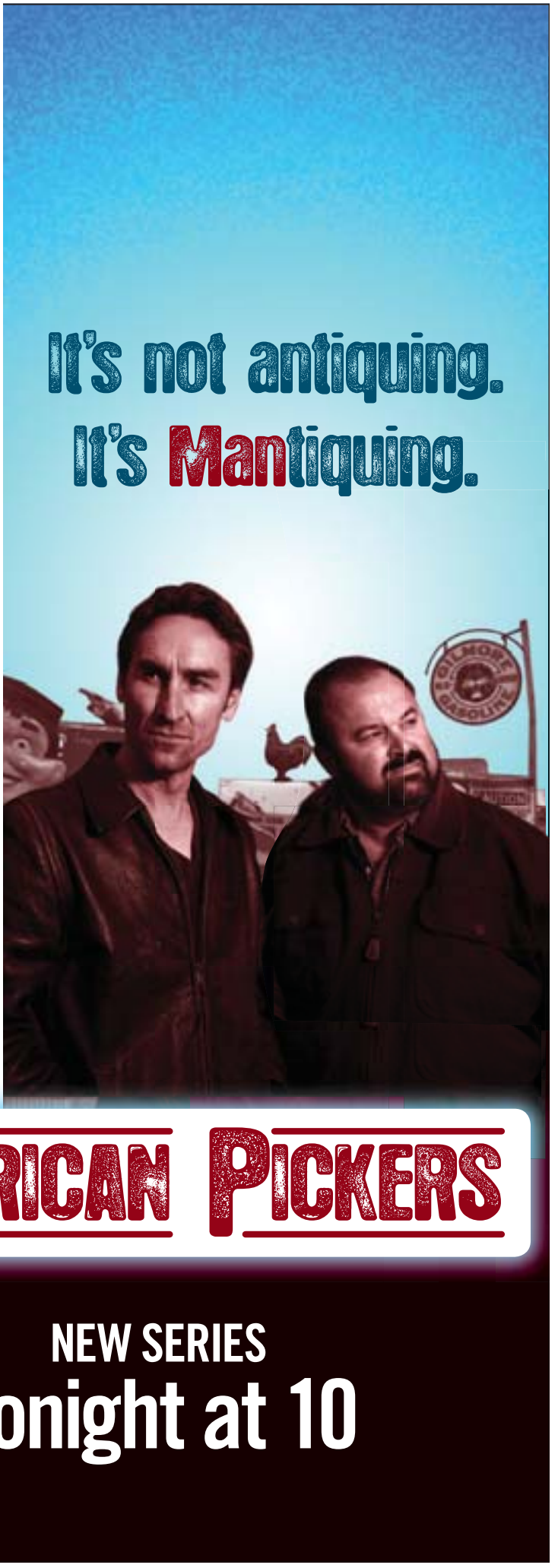
Talking points

Lohan catches a legal break

JUST A WARNING. It seems Lindsay Lohan's luck with the law is improving. The fresh-out-of-rehab actress hit the town in Los Angeles recently, serving as designated driver for her friends, and was reportedly speeding and running through stop signs in her new Maserati, according to Pacific Coast News. Sources say a police officer pulled her over, but Lohan managed to get off with just a warning.

Not that it matters ...

NURTURING. While still dodging questions about Mariah Carey's possible pregnancy, Nick Cannon can't seem to keep parenthood off his mind. "She's very nurturing," he tells People magazine of his wife. "She's nurturing with me and makes me breakfast at anytime and that's my favorite food. It would be, like, 3 o'clock in the morning and she will still make me waffles. She'll be the best mom." METRO



3 life

Technology

A Canadian scientist is pioneering an experimental procedure to repair damaged eyes using artificial corneas. Dr. May Griffith, a senior scientist from Ottawa, teamed with Swedish colleagues to try to the restore eyesight of 10 patients with damaged corneas. They surgically removed the patients' injured corneas and replaced them with artificial ones. Vision improved in six of the 10 patients, and the other four could see better when they wore contact lenses. The nerves and cells grew back fully in nine of the 10 patients, while one patient's eyes have been slower to respond.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paralyzed computer engineer helps develop technology for kids with disabilities

Last year, little Stella Biblis was born — from frozen sperm. When her dad, Chris, was a teenager leukemia patient, he allowed doctors froze his sperm. Otherwise radiation treatment would have killed it. Today lots of young men with cancer do the same.

METRO WORLD NEWS

When it comes to in-vitro pregnancies today, there's even hope for women when it comes to freezing technology.

Honey, I Froze the kids

ELISABETH BRAW
WELLNESS@METRONEWS.CA

When Chris Biblis was diagnosed with leukemia at age 16, doctors knew he'd survive only with radiation treatment. Unfortunately, Biblis's testicles had to be radiated, too. Chris would be infertile.

It was 1987. Back home in Alabama, Biblis's mother happened to read a news article about British doctors who froze sperm. She decided she wanted her son to freeze his sperm, too, to give him a chance of later having a family.

"I sort of thought it was a good idea," recalls Biblis, now 40, "but it was totally embarrassing. I had to drive several hours with my father to give the specimen."

Biblis's unusual choice paid off: last year, he and his wife welcomed a healthy baby, Stella. She was conceived using Biblis's 22-year-old sperm. "It was like any other in-vitro (test-tube) pregnancy", explains Chris's wife, Melodie.

50 percentage of male cancer patients who have frozen their sperm and later conceive using frozen sperm

"When we decided to do it, we didn't realize that it was somehow unusual to use 22-year-old sperm."

It was only one baby has ever been conceived using older sperm.

That's because in 1987, sperm-freezing of any kind was highly unusual. But today, young male cancer patients are routinely asked to give sperm specimens, to be stored until they're ready to start a family.

"I feel lucky to be alive after cancer. But I feel more lucky being a father." CHRIS BIBLIS

The demand has grown since 80 per cent of children and adolescents with cancer now survive.

"Having babies is often the last thing on teenage boys' minds," explains Dr. Richard Wing, who heads Reproductive Endocrinology Associates of Charlotte, North Carolina.

"But chemotherapy and radiation often result in men having no sperm, and frozen sperm can last for decades."

Wing helped the Biblises conceive. Today female cancer survivors, too, have better chances of conceiving. Eggs can now be frozen using rapid-freezing technology that makes them more viable; about one fifth of frozen eggs result in pregnancies.

"But women can't just provide eggs for freezing," explains Wing.

"It takes two-three weeks to prepare their ovaries for ovulation, and the eggs' viability depend on how far the cancer has gone."

In the past, young single women with cancer faced the dilemma of freezing their eggs with little chance of success or fertilizing their eggs using a sperm donor.

But even with optimistic prospects of post-cancer parenthood, many turn down their only chance.

When Chris Biblis delivered his sperm sample, he had no thought of his little Stella, now teething.

"I feel lucky to be alive after cancer", he says.

"But I feel more lucky being a father."

Two questions

Dr. Safaa Maxwell of the London Fertility Centre answers questions about rapid egg freezing.

Whose fertility is more affected by cancer, men's or women's?
"Women's. Even 80 per cent of men with testicular cancer manage to conceive. On the other hand, women who have cancer are often on treatment for several years, and by then it may be too late for them to have babies anyway."

Rapid egg freezing is a promising prospect for women. Which other methods are currently being developed?
Ovarian tissue freezing. The ovary is removed and frozen. Later it can be transplanted back to the body where it can continue to function again. There's also in-vitro maturation, where immature eggs are collected and matured in the lab. This has been tried on some young cancer patients as young as five years.

Nobody is listening, but ear buds aren't your friend

FLICKR: XJASONROGERSX

▶ More teens than ever are reporting some hearing loss.

▶ Hearing loss affecting nearly 20 per cent of teens today ▶ Learning how to preset maximums on your headphones will save you in the long run

CELIA MILNE
WELLNESS@METRONEWS.CA

"Turn it down! You'll go deaf!"

Sound familiar? Mom always said listening to loud music would affect your hearing. Well, a new study has given her some ammunition.

Loss of hearing is affecting five per cent more adolescents than it was 15 years ago, according to hearing experts who analysed U.S. survey data.

If people around you on the subway can hear your music right through your ear phones, your tunes are too loud, they say.

It's a good idea to preset the volume on electronic music devices to between half and two-thirds of maximum, suggests Dr. Ron Eavey, an otolaryngologist from Nashville, Tenn. Most devices play at up to 120 decibels, while anything above 85 is considered bad for hearing.

Eavey and colleagues studied results from a large, population-based study called the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), involving thousands of adolescents ages 12 to 19.

They found that hearing loss is now affecting nearly 20 per cent of teens, and they are worried it is the beginning of an epidemic.

1,000,000

In Canada, more than a million people say they have a hearing-related disability. This is twice the number of people with sight-related problems.

Hearing loss

It's hard to tell if you are losing your hearing because it happens gradually. Here are the signs of hearing loss resulting from ongoing loud noise

- **When an ongoing noise stops, sound may seem muffled**
- **People seem to mumble**
- **Your ears ring**
- **People tell you the TV is too loud**
- **You keep turning up the stereo so you can hear it**
- **You feel pressure or fullness in your ears.**

25%

One quarter of young people entering the workforce had the early warning signs of hearing loss and almost five per cent more had abnormal results on hearing tests, according to a 2005 study by WorkSafe BC.

CELIA MILNE

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HEALTHY LIVING

MS worse in spring, summer

Here is an intriguing finding about multiple sclerosis. The disease seems to flare up in the spring and summer. Researchers found in brain scans that MS activity increased during the months of March through August.

MS is a disease of the central nervous system that can cause loss of balance, impaired speech, extreme fatigue and double vision.

The new study, which was conducted at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, is important because many clinical trials are only six months long. When researchers study the effect of various drugs on the disease, it could appear that the drug is working well when in fact the change of season accounts for the improvement. The study was published in the journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

CELIA MILNE

More omega-3 fats don't help heart disease: Study

FLICKR: NATHANMAC87

▶ A little bit of omega-3 won't help prevent heart disease, a new study shows.

Fatty acid once thought to have helped those prone to attacks

Eating more heart-healthy omega-3 fats provided no additional benefit in a study of heart attack survivors who were already getting good care, Dutch researchers report.

After nearly 3 1/2 years, there was no difference in deaths, heart attacks and other heart problems between those who ate margarine with added omega-3 fatty acids and those who didn't, the study found.

The results don't mean that getting more of the essential nutrient has no value. Several studies have offered evidence that the fats — mostly from fish oil — reduce heart disease.

But for heart patients who are carefully treated "adding a little bit of omega-3 fatty acid does not seem to make a difference," said Alice Lichtenstein, a Tufts University nutrition professor, who was not involved in the research.

"Adding a little bit of omega-3 fatty acid does not seem to make a difference."
ALICE LICHTENSTEIN, A TUFTS UNIVERSITY NUTRITION PROFESSOR

Omega-3 fatty acids are thought to help reduce the risk of abnormal heartbeats, slow the growth of plaque that can clog arteries and lower harmful fats called triglycerides.

In recent years, omega-3 has been added to some foods such as margarine and eggs, or labels highlight the omega-3 content of foods like tuna fish.

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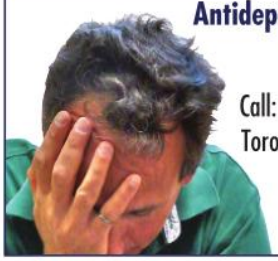

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tomato and Italian Herb Gazpacho.

Gazpacho packs nutritional punch

Conventional wisdom says that cooking vegetables tends to diminish their nutritional prowess. And while there is some truth to this, it isn't always the case.

Cooking tomatoes does diminish their stores of vitamin C, but it also concentrates other nutrients, such as lycopene (found in red tomatoes), a powerful antioxidant.

Cooking tomatoes also is great from a culinary standpoint. Heat intensifies their flavour and brings out their rich sweetness by caramelizing the natural sugars. With this recipe for gazpacho, you can have it either way.

This Italian-style take on the refreshing soup is seasoned with fresh basil and oregano along with a liberal shot of balsamic vinegar. The addition of some fresh mozzarella cheese adds the protein and substance to turn the soup into a satisfying lunch or light supper. Serve with grilled slabs of crusty whole-grain bread to complete the meal.

For a cooked version of this recipe, spread the diced tomatoes on a rimmed baking sheet and roast at 200 C (400 F) until they start to brown. Let them cool, then proceed with the recipe.

Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, cucumber, bell pepper, onion, vinegar, oil, basil, oregano, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir to combine. Let the mixture rest at room temperature for 15 minutes.

2. Using a food processor or blender and working in batches, process tomato mixture until it is chunky smooth, 10 to 15 pulses in a processor. Transfer to a bowl, cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. To serve, divide gazpacho among bowls and top with mozzarella. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients :

- 1.25 l cored and diced tomatoes (about 4 large)
- 1 large English cucumber, peeled and diced
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cored, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium red onion, chopped
- 75 ml balsamic vinegar
- 50 ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 75 ml chopped fresh basil
- 30 ml chopped fresh oregano
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 ml kosher salt
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 170 g very small fresh mozzarella balls

Nice over ice: Irish Whiskey

Liquid Assets

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA

As you read this week's column I'm enjoying a little rest and relaxation in Ireland. Though I've only been here a few days I've already consumed my body weight in Guinness Draught so am now working my way to whiskey, which I'll spell with an "e" like they do here on the Emerald Isle.

The cult of Irish whiskey has been gaining membership for much of this century at the expense of single malt scotches and their blended brethren. An Irishman's lighter, sweeter side — thanks in part to a process of triple distillation — seems to have more over ice appeal for non-brown booze drinkers than scotch (many of which taste like they could take the paint off your car).

A classic whiskey like Jameson ($30.00 - $31.99) — first made in Dublin in 1780 — is a super smooth spirit with an orange marmalade aroma and creamy sweet finish. It's so easy on the palate that you could almost drink it straight from the bottle (which I still might).

Northern Ireland's Bushmill's, the oldest distillery on the island, was licensed in 1608 with its Black Bush ($36.99 - $37.64) a quintessential Irish drop layered with warm malt and spice. Sláinte!

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces. Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and traveling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

WORK BARBECUE SPARKED ROMANCE

How We Met: Blair & Aila

Names: Blair, 27, and Aila, 36

Hometown: Charlottetown

Together since: 2007

Their story:

I (Aila) met Blair at a work barbecue. He was in the Armed Forces, posted at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, and I was working as a civilian on the base. My friend was actually interested in him and, since Blair was much younger than me, I didn't pay much attention to him. We did, however, hit it off after discovering we had so many things in common. He emailed me two days after we met and we've been together ever since. We eloped in Newfoundland in August 2008. Last year, Blair was released from the army so we could move to P.E.I., where he is originally from. We happily settled here in an old house with my daughter, and we're slowly making it both our home and a home-based photography business.

WE WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU MET! GO TO 2FORCOUPLES.COM NOW TO SUBMIT YOUR LOVE STORY.

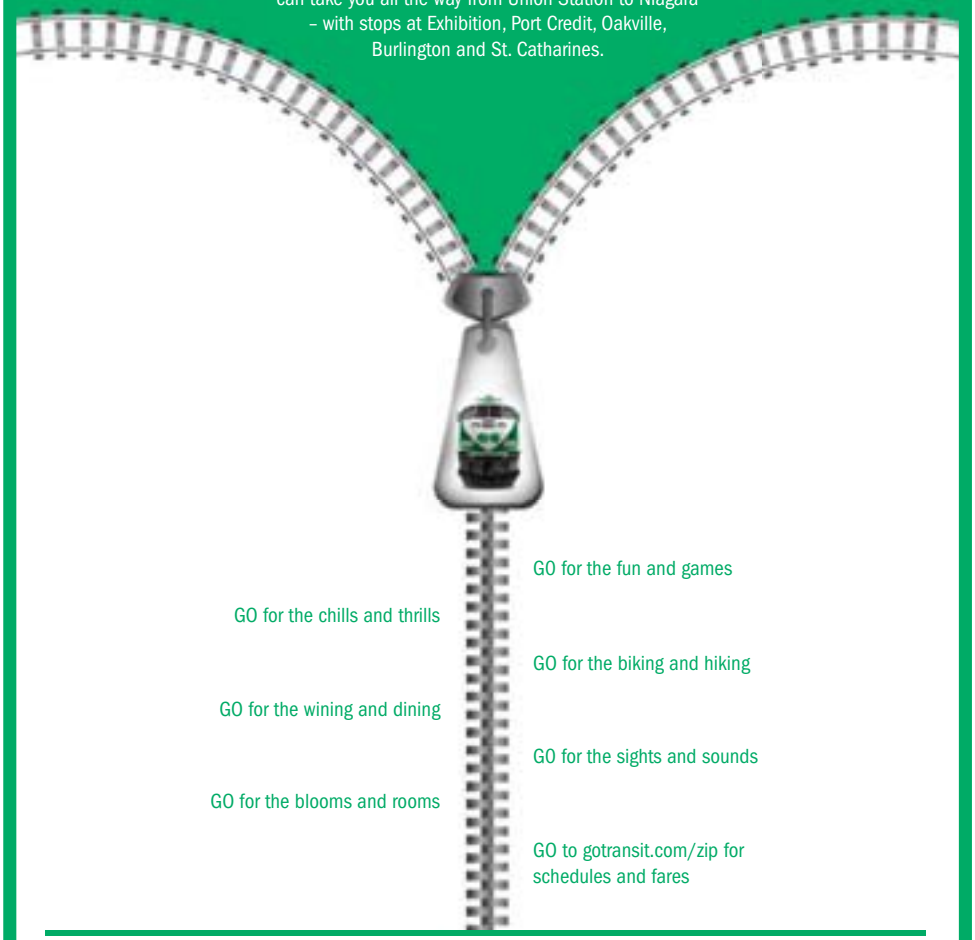
▶ Blair and Aila met at a barbecue and eloped in 2008.

Tips for work-life balance

1. **Slow Down.** Take time to stop and enjoy the things and people around you. Plan downtime and find some ways to distance yourself from the things that cause stress.
2. **Use technology to streamline schedules.** Tools like Microsoft Office Outlook let you link each member of your family's calendar allowing you to see what everyone's doing.
3. **Protect your personal time.** Turning off a cell or other device establishes boundaries between your personal and professional time. **NEWS CANADA**

Zip down to Niagara this weekend

Friday evenings, weekends and holidays until September 26, the GO Train can take you all the way from Union Station to Niagara – with stops at Exhibition, Port Credit, Oakville, Burlington and St. Catharines.



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With wine, make it fine

Alison's Rule: Drink no wine before it's time — especially when you make it yourself But when it's time to quaff, savour the savings

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Here's my end-of-summer garden party nightmare; a brimming glass of the host's homemade wine and me attempting to keep the wince out of every sip.

One thing about a recession though, it opens your mind to what you didn't think you would ever want to do or drink.

Early summer found me in the fruit scented quarters of the Just Wine in Milton, Ont. I had driven by the place for 10 years and never once been tempted.

"If all works out I estimate (making my own wine earns me a) savings of at least $2,500 a year – enough to take hubby and me on a very nice wine tasting holiday."

But I love my wine and despite a reported glut of the good grape plus a global economic meltdown wine prices haven't declined perceptibly. So, I bravely ordered two kits, 30 bottles of the best Australian Chardonnay and 30 more of the Napa Valley Stag's Leap District Merlot, part of the Selection Estate series distributed by Wine Expert of B.C.

Both claimed gold medals in some tasting or other and both were the most expensive of their kind available in the store. If you are going to do it yourself buy the best available. Even so, the cost per bottle was under $5 for the white and under $7 for the red (that doesn't include optional labels, 10 cents each, or bottles, $1.10. You can also supply your own.)

Six weeks later I spent a happy hour bottling the Chardonnay and two weeks after that, the Merlot. Tasting both during bottling surprised me. Drinkable!

If all works out I estimate savings of at least $2,500 a year — enough to take hubby and me on a very nice wine tasting holiday.

Stay tuned for full tasting results in a couple of months.

ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA

It pays to wait

- Getting the most out of your vintner experience demands the patience to wait a minimum of three months for the white and six for the Merlot. So far I've uncorked the Chardonnay at two, four and six weeks after bottling — just for research purposes, you understand. Drinkable has progressed to tasty. At two months the Merlot is still too raw for my palate, but improving.

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Making your own wine can save a lot of money.

WHEN IT COMES TO CREDIT, KNOW THE SCORE

Fun and Frugal

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Your credit score can impact your ability to borrow, buy a home or car, and even to get a job. It reflects your level of financial responsibility and therefore you must diligently protect it. And, because of increased fraud and identity theft it's equally important that you ensure your credit report is accurate.

If you've paid back your loans on time, maintained revolving credit (credit cards or lines of credit), and not declared bankruptcy, you're probably in good shape. But, if you've done some credit damage, you're going to have to repair your score.

Be wary of credit counselling agencies that are not endorsed by the government. Although they may claim to "fix" your credit by having bad things removed from your file (in exchange for payments), that's impossible. Unless there is a reporting error on your credit file, your credit score can't be manipulated. The only true way to repair a bad credit score is to prove you're responsible with money and wait it out. So, make your payments on time, don't miss payments and make sure you do pay. It's also important to note that if you're a co-applicant on a credit card or loan or if your name isn't directly on a bill, you do not build credit. So, if you want to build a positive credit record, have your own credit card and loans, put bills in your name and pay your debts on time.

If you're struggling with keeping up, see a credit counsellor. Check out creditcounsellingcanada.ca or creditcanada.com. They can help you negotiate new terms with your lenders. Bankruptcy and foreclosure hurts both you and the credit provider so try to work with your creditors to arrive at a potential solution. They'll be more willing to negotiate with you if you're serious about paying up, and they'll avoid writing off a bad loan.

There are two credit bureaus in Canada — Equifax (equifax.ca) and TransUnion (transunion.ca). You can request a free copy of your credit score by visiting their websites. It's important to know your credit score and do everything you can to protect it.

Tips

- To ensure your credit file has accurate information, check on it every year.
- Ensure the credit bureau's records match your records. Look for identity theft, corporate reporting errors, loan defaults, and other negative items.
- If you have a question or inquiry, send a written request (with official receipts and paperwork) to the credit bureau and they will investigate the matter for you.
- If an error is discovered in your file, the credit bureau must correct it.
- If you've applied for credit and your application is refused, the credit bureau isn't responsible for the decision — the credit grantor makes the decision based on their lending policies.

LESLEY SCORGIE

Cutting out the cubicle

Technologies breathe new energy into the workplace

For many working Canadians, long commutes, cramped cubicles and never-ending meetings in stuffy boardrooms can turn job satisfaction into a daily grind. But a few new, employee-friendly technologies are shaking up the traditional workplace by enabling employees to work and interact in unconventional ways.

Chuck Hamilton, a virtual learning leader for IBM, identifies three developments that are improving workplaces by making them more collaborative and connected.

Say Goodbye to Commutes and Cubicles

As more people adopt mobile technologies, cluttered cubicles and costly commutes will become a burden of the past. Advances in smart phones and netbooks enable employees to surf the web and share business intelligence all from the palm of their hand, whether at home or on the road. This 24/7, constantly connected landscape begs for a fresh look at what an "office" entails. Evolving mobile technology offers a unique opportunity for companies to embrace on-the-go workers and cut back on expensive real estate.

▶ IBM brings employees together in a three-dimensional virtual world.

Go Global

As one of the world's largest technology companies with offices all over the globe, IBM has found that one highly effective way to build and develop great teams is to bring employees together in a three-dimensional virtual world. It even holds mentoring sessions virtually, where avatars representing mentors and protégés connect in a relaxed setting. This Virtual Speed Mentoring facility comes equipped with an observation deck, private pods and a meeting area, adding a whole new dimension to standard workplace meet and greets. More interactive than a conference call and less costly than a flight, virtual worlds give employees the opportunity to connect no matter where in the world they are.

Re-think Happy Hour

Social networking was once limited to post-work cocktail hour. Now, digital tools such as blogs, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter have created a new era of social collaboration. Employees can leverage these networks to monitor the status of a project, or simply to build social relationships with colleagues, new contacts or cohorts. Information can be shared instantaneously, improving workplace productivity and efficiency.

More details

More information on making your workplace work better for you can be found online at asmarterplanet.com

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Learning in the digital age constantly evolving

The modern classroom is being transformed by technology Students have more options

DOROTHY ROBINSON
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Over the last 10 years thee has been a move away from the chalkboard toward a digital classroom.

This past decade has seen a move away from the chalk board and toward a digitized classroom. And if that has been revolutionary for students and teachers, just wait until 2010 and beyond, notes Francie Alexander, chief academic officer at Scholastic, the children's publishing, education and media company. She shares with Metro some of the trends she expects for the modern classroom.

More emphasis on the teacher

"I think people are taking a new look at becoming a teacher," says Alexander. "There are many more alternative paths to get into the profession … for those who have finished military service. It's a great career move; you get to impact generations, and there are not many jobs that do that."

Transformation by technology

"For so long, people haven't thought that technology would dramatically change the classroom, but it's coming; it's really starting to change" she says. "White boards are really prevalent, and computers are ubiquitous. The next generation of teachers will have grown up in the digital age, and they will pass on that knowledge to their students."

An expanded focus on literacy

"Learning to read and write is a journey throughout all of education, not just in first grade," Alexander points out. "You find that job requirements at all levels are requiring a more sophisticated reading level, even technical jobs and the military where the manuals are becoming more technical. And look at your everyday life, from your mortgage to tax forms to phone agreements. It doesn,t matter what your career is — you need literacy for life."

More options than just a four-year college

"People are going to be effective consumers of education," says Alexander. "For example, people in California are opting for two years of community college and then two years at a university. They figure they will get the classes that are just requirements out of the way, in a more cost-effective way. Plus, going with the technology trend, we'll see a lot more students figure out which classes they can take online."

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

From tired to wired

For some Canadian students, school days can be school daze — a series of mind-numbing lectures and monotonous textbook readings. But with new smart technologies, interactive programs and the opportunity to customize learning experiences, students have the opportunity to gain 21st century skills that will make over classrooms and brighten lesson plans:

To China and beyond

Though teaching students about ancient civilizations in Greece and reliving famous Canadian battles is a dream for most teachers, lack of funding and jam-packed curricula can prevent the kind of hands-on learning that turns history into adventure. Now, using virtual world technology, students and teachers can travel the world to explore historic ruins and discover far-off lands without ever leaving their desks. For example, using a new virtual Forbidden City application, students can delve into the culture of the Qing dynasty while exploring the inner walls of China's Forbidden City. Getting to Asia and back has never been easier. NEWS CANADA

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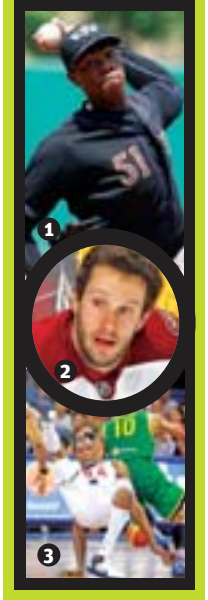
4 sports

Sports in brief



1 Cuban defector Aroldis Chapman will be added to the Cincinnati Reds' bullpen for their playoff push.

2 Veteran forward Lee Stempniak has officially signed a $3.8-million US, two-year contract with the Phoenix Coyotes.

3 The United States survived its first tough test at the world basketball championship, edging Brazil 70-68 yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan code for sports

U.S. Open. Clijsters wins, barely

▶ Kim Clijsters returns a forehand against Greta Arn yesterday at the U.S. Open.

AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Clijsters nearly suffers upset, but rallies to win at U.S. Open

Defending champion Kim Clijsters struggled to find her footing on a windy day before recovering in time to win her 15th straight match at the U.S. Open. The second-seeded Belgian beat Hungary's Greta Arn 6-0, 7-5 in the first round yesterday. She fell behind 4-0 in the second set, and the 104th-ranked Arn had a chance to serve out the set at 5-4. But Clijsters got the break, then did it again to clinch the straight-set victory.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Not guilty, your honour': Clemens

Case begins against baseball legend ◗ Charges include making false statements, perjury and obstruction of Congress ◗ Clemens still fighting allegations he cheated by doping

Roger Clemens put his right hand on the lectern, leaned down toward the microphone and made what might be the most important pitch of his life: "Not guilty, your honour."

Those words, uttered yesterday in a strong, confident voice by the seven-time Cy Young award winner sporting a black blazer and blond highlights in his hair, marked the official beginning of a court case that could taint baseball even further and land the "Rocket" in jail.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton presided over an arraignment hearing that lasted less than 14 minutes in the ceremonial courtroom at the U.S. federal courthouse, across the street from the Capitol.

Walton set April 5 as the start of jury selection — the Monday of the first full week of the 2011 baseball season, and also around the time a case involving Barry Bonds, the all-time home run king, could be wrapping up in San Francisco.

30
If convicted, Clemens could face up to 30 years in prison and a $1.5-million US fine.

Pete Rose, Darryl Strawberry, Dwight Gooden and Denny McLain are among former baseball stars to have spent time in jail.

Clemens and Bonds, who chased history on the field throughout their careers, now could be chasing history off it.

They are both in jeopardy of becoming the first baseball star jailed because of a conviction related to the performance-enhancing-drug imbroglio that has sullied their sport for much of the past 15 years.

As he has throughout the process, Clemens again fought any suggestion that he cheated during a 23-season career that ended with 354 wins and 4,672 strikeouts.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

White Sox add Manny for push

Back to frighten pitchers who haven't seen him regularly in a few years, Manny Ramirez will try to get the Chicago White Sox back to the playoffs.

As expected, the White Sox claimed the unpredictable but productive 12-time all-star slugger on waivers from the Los Angeles Dodgers yesterday, hoping his powerful bat can help them make a post-season push.

His first appearance for Chicago will come against the lowly Indians, the team where he began his career.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DILIP VISHWANAT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Manny Ramierez

Rugby player faces murder charge

South African rugby union player Bees Roux was charged with murder yesterday after allegedly beating a policeman to death in Pretoria.

At a bail hearing in a courtroom crowded with police officers, Roux's lawyer said his client would plead not guilty.

The 28-year-old Roux claims his car was being stolen and he was acting in self-defence, said the lawyer, who also claimed his client's credit card had been used at a restaurant after he was placed in custody. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brett Cecil reacts as Carlos Pena, right, rounds the bases.

Pena helps Rays roll over Blue Jays

Tampa Bay slugger hits homer, drives in four runs • Cecil gives up five runs over seven innings to a team he has beaten three times this season

RAYS	JAYS
6	2

Carlos Pena homered and drove in four runs, Wade Davis won his sixth straight decision and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-2 last night.

Pena made it 5-1 with a three-run homer off Brett Cecil (11-7) in the third inning.

Davis (11-9) allowed two runs and six hits in 7⅔ innings.

The right-hander has the longest winning streak by a rookie in franchise history. He had shared the streak with Jeff Niemann (2008) and Victor Zambrano (2001).

Chad Qualls replaced Davis with two on and two outs in the eighth and struck out Jose Bautista, who leads the majors with 42 home runs. Tampa Bay started yesterday tied with the New York Yankees for first place in the American League East.

Aaron Hill hit his 20th homer of the season for the Blue Jays.

Cecil, who had beaten Tampa Bay in three previous starts this season, gave up five runs — two earned — and five hits over seven innings.

Carl Crawford reached when Hill was charged with an error after moving in from second base and then misplaying a slow grounder with two outs in the third. After Evan Longoria had an infield single, Pena hit an opposite-field drive to left for his 26th homer this season.

Crawford had an RBI double and Pena hit a sacrifice fly to put the Rays up 2-0 in the first.

Longoria had a sacrifice fly during the eighth that extended the Tampa Bay advantage to 6-2.

The Blue Jays pulled to within 2-1 on a third-inning grounder by Travis Snider. Hill, who hit his 20th double this year in the second, added a fifth-inning solo homer.

The announced crowd was just 11,968.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Game notes

- Toronto first baseman Lyle Overbay missed his third consecutive game. Manager Cito Gaston said Overbay continues to not feel well and is undergoing tests.
- Toronto shortstop Yunel Escobar sat out for the second straight game with a stiff back, while Vernon Wells was rested.
- The Rays are a major league best 31-14 against left-handed starters.
- Tampa Bay reliever Grant Balfour threw a perfect inning in his second minor league appearance for Class-A Charlotte.
- Tampa Bay slugger Evan Longoria has 16 RBIs in his last 16 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scoreboard

BASEBALL

AL EAST

	W	L	Pct	GB
NEW YORK	80	50	.615	-
TAMPA BAY	80	50	.615	-
BOSTON	74	57	.565	6.5
TORONTO	68	62	.523	12
BALTIMORE	48	83	.366	32.5

AL CENTRAL

	W	L	Pct	GB
MINNESOTA	75	56	.573	-
CHICAGO	70	60	.538	4.5
DETROIT	65	66	.496	10
KANSAS CITY	55	75	.423	19.5
CLEVELAND	53	77	.408	21.5

AL WEST

	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	73	57	.562	-
OAKLAND	65	64	.504	7.5
LOS ANGELES	63	68	.481	10.5
SEATTLE	51	79	.392	22

Yesterday's AL results

Chicago White Sox at Cleveland
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees
Toronto at Tampa Bay
Texas at Kansas City
L.A. Angels at Seattle

Today's AL games

Boston at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Texas at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NL EAST

	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	75	55	.577	-
PHILADELPHIA	73	57	.562	2
FLORIDA	65	64	.504	9.5
NEW YORK	65	65	.500	10
WASHINGTON	56	75	.427	19.5

NL CENTRAL

	W	L	Pct	GB
CINCINNATI	75	55	.577	-
ST. LOUIS	69	59	.539	5
MILWAUKEE	62	68	.477	13
HOUSTON	59	71	.454	16
CHICAGO	55	76	.420	20.5
PITTSBURGH	43	87	.331	32

NL WEST

	W	L	Pct	GB
SAN DIEGO	76	53	.589	-
SAN FRANCISCO	72	59	.550	5
COLORADO	68	61	.527	8
LOS ANGELES	67	64	.511	10
ARIZONA	52	79	.397	25

Yesterday's NL results

Milwaukee at Cincinnati
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta
Washington at Florida
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs
St. Louis at Houston
San Diego at Arizona
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers
Colorado at San Francisco

Today's NL games

Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Atlanta, 7:10 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

THIS DAY IN SPORTS

1999 - The U.S. Open loses two-time defending champion Patrick Rafter because of injury. Rafter, bothered by a right shoulder injury, retires after Cedric Pioline broke his serve in the opening game of the fifth set. It's the first time a defending champion — man or woman — loses in the first round in the history of this Grand Slam tournament going back to 1881.

2001 - Pitcher Danny Almonte, who dominated the Little League World Series with his 70 m.p.h fastballs, is ruled ineligible after U.S. government records experts determine he is actually 14, and that birth certificates showing he was two years younger are false. The finding nullifies all the victories by his Bronx, N.Y., team, the Rolando Paulino Little League All-Stars.

2004 - Omar Vizquel is 6-for-7 to tie the American League record for hits for a nine-inning game in Cleveland's 22-0 victory over New York, the largest loss in the history of the Yankees organization.

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
MONTREAL	8	6	2	0	269	193	12
TORONTO	8	5	3	0	191	215	10
HAMILTON	8	4	4	0	201	215	8
WINNIPEG	8	2	6	0	224	244	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
CALGARY	8	7	1	0	271	177	14
SASK.	8	5	3	0	249	213	10
EDMONTON	8	2	6	0	162	253	4
B.C.	8	1	7	0	170	227	2

Friday's game

B.C. at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's game

Winnipeg at Saskatchewan, 4 p.m.

Monday's games

Toronto at Hamilton, 2:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 6 p.m.

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ICC promises action

If allegations of fixing are proven, cricket council won't respond lightly

The International Cricket Council has promised to take "prompt and decisive action" against any Pakistan player found guilty of fixing or manipulating matches.

The ICC said yesterday that its Anti-Corruption and Security Unit is investigating newspaper allegations that fixing is endemic in Pakistan matches up to and including its current tour of England.

"The integrity of the game is of paramount importance," ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat said. "Prompt and decisive action will be taken against those who seek to harm it.

"However, the facts must first be established through a thorough investigation and it is important to respect the right of due process when addressing serious allegations of this sort."

Pakistan cricket is in crisis after British police started investigating allegations by a British tabloid that two of its players deliberately bowled no-balls against England last week in exchange for money.

Individuals in illegal betting hubs allegedly have that information passed on to them so they can bet on a sure thing.

Though there is no suggestion the players' actions affected the scale of Pakistan's defeat — its heaviest in 58 years of test cricket — any player found guilty of colluding with bookmakers to manipulate the result could be banned for life.

Pakistan lost the series 3-1 after going down by an innings and 225 runs Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tour continues

- The Pakistan squad left London yesterday and travelled to Taunton in southwest England, where it is scheduled to play county side Somerset Thursday.

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pakistan's cricket manager Yawar Saeed returns to the team hotel yesterday in London.

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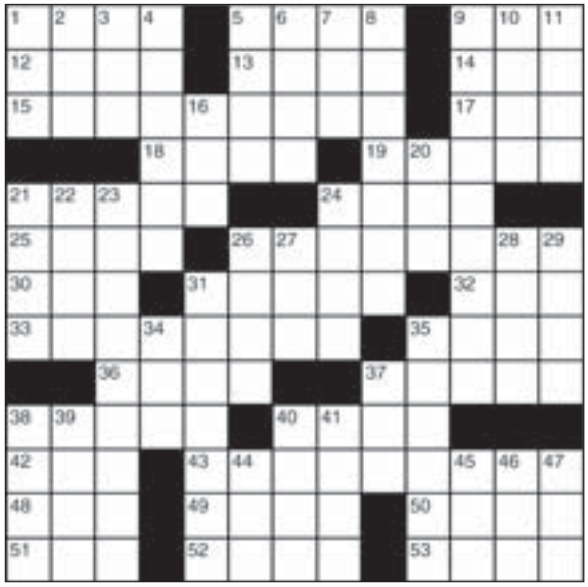
Crossword



Across

1 Fail to hit
5 Newspaper page
9 Taxi
12 Leading man?
13 Prepare a casserole
14 Exist
15 Summertime tops
17 Wire measure
18 Abound
19 Perfect
21 Hidden supply
24 Seed covering
25 "An apple — ..."
26 Last page, perhaps
30 Aries
31 Song thrush
32 Mimic
33 All set
35 On the rocks
36 Skating arena
37 1990 Nicholson film, "The Two —"
38 Cow catcher?
40 Slender
42 Type measures
43 Soft cheese
48 Biblical verb suffix
49 MGM mascot
50 Mid-month date
51 Actress Myrna
52 Ova
53 Freebie

Down

1 "Big" fast food entree
2 McKinley's first lady
3 "Casablanca" pianist
4 Forge
5 Reed instrument
6 Date provider
7 — out a living
8 Wants
9 Phoenix mountain
10 Met melody
11 Phone inventor
16 Witness
20 Badly lit
21 Complain
22 Hebrew month
23 Averse to being photographed
24 Kind of wit or test
26 Gloomy
27 12-Across' mate
28 Duel tool
29 Cincinnati team
31 Handcuff
34 Cherry stone
35 — pentameter
37 Olympian Thorpe
38 Spool
39 Grooving on
40 Urban pollutant
41 Contact, for one
44 2009 newsmaking insurance co.
45 Tokyo's old name
46 Sleep phenom
47 Recipe meas.

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

		7	4			3	5	
1						9		7
	4			8				6
	1				6	2		
			1		4			
		5	3				6	
6				3			7	
5		2						3
	7	3			8	6		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	9	7	4	1	5	3	6	8
1	3	4	9	6	8	7	5	2
6	5	8	2	7	3	4	1	9
3	4	5	1	2	7	8	9	6
9	7	1	5	8	6	2	4	3
8	6	2	3	4	9	1	7	5
7	8	9	6	3	4	5	2	1
5	2	3	7	9	1	6	8	4
4	1	6	8	5	2	9	3	7

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy birthday chels! I love you more than ever, good luck in school and I will see you on the 25th.
SHAUN

NOM, I love you deeply, madly and truly! Yours always and all ways!
BOM XOXOXOXOXO 10

Muscles, I love you so much. I miss you more everyday, and I hope someday we can work things out. I believe in us.
LOVE, TWIGGY XOXO

Life is good my Tall Mark and Handsome, Thanks for making my day always a bit brighter.
YOUR BLONDE CINDY BABY.

Nubbin I love you. Happy 5 month! You are the best thing that has ever happened to me. I'll love you forever. Love always,
TALLSTACK

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 A creative or artistic project can be taken to a higher level over the next few days, but it will require patience and persistence as well as your usual awesome energy levels.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you have promised to do something for friend or family member then you have no option but to see it through to completion, even if you are now having second thoughts.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you get your act together and get to work over the next few days you will achieve something out of the ordinary. You have never lacked for ideas but you do sometimes lack for application.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are in one of your can-do moods at the moment and whatever goal you set your sights on will be reached in record quick time. Don't forget to bring other people into your plans as well.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Don't worry about whether or not you are doing the "right thing" today because in the greater scheme of existence the "right thing" is whatever you want it to be.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 There is something you should have finished weeks, maybe months, ago but for one reason or another never got round to completing. Now is the time to go back and get it done.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will be extraordinarily dynamic today, so much so that others might start to wonder if you are on some kind of stimulant! The only stimulant you need is the realization that life is a wonderful adventure.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Try not to think too much about what you are doing today because you will do better when you just get on with it. Sometimes you over analyze the events of your life.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Routine bores you at the best of times and if you have to follow a mapped out route today you may end up screaming. How did you get into this position?

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will be more energetic on a thinking level than a doing level today, and that's good because you need to get your head round certain ideas and concepts that don't come naturally to you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Some people enjoy making a drama out of a crisis and it will be your job today to calm them down and point out that life is not so bad.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You should be promoting yourself for all you are worth now, not only because you are worth a great deal more than you have been getting but because you'll only get noticed if you make noise. SALLY BROMPTON

DEAN TREML/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV Babies!

"Our babies and kids are busy!" says Ann Love at The Baby Face Agency. "In ads, movies, and modelling, some earned $30,000."

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metronews.ca

AIR CANADA VACATIONS

Deals of the week

NON-STOP FLIGHTS

CUBA

Cayo Coco/Cayo Guillermo

TRYP Cayo Coco • 4★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Sept. 11–25 • 1 wk.

$399
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $233
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally

Varadero

Sirenis La Salina Varadero Beach Resort • 4★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Sept. 11–26 • 1 wk.

$459
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $233
Departure tax: 25 CUC cash, paid locally

JAMAICA

Gran Bahia Principe Jamaica • 4 1/2★

All-Inclusive
Junior suite
Sept. 5–25 • 1 wk.

PRIVILEGES
$849
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $286
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Iberostar Rose Hall Beach • 4 1/2★

All-Inclusive
Standard garden view rm.
Sept. 5–25 • 1 wk.

$879
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $286
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Samana

Grand Paradise Samana • 4★

All-Inclusive
Superior garden rm.
Sept. 19 & 26 • 1 wk.

$479
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $316

Punta Cana

Occidental Grand Punta Cana • 4★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Oct. 2, 16 & 23 • 1 wk.

$789
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $316

MEXICO

Cancun/Riviera Maya

Grand Sirenis Riviera Maya Hotel & Spa • 5★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Nov. 4 • 1 wk.

$919
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $296

Gran Bahia Principe Coba • 5★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite
Nov. 4 • 1 wk.

PRIVILEGES
$1009
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $296

BAHAMAS

Great Exuma

Augusta Bay • 3 1/2★

Continental breakfast
Oceanview queen rm.
Sept. 19 & 26 • 1 wk.

$659
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $207

Grande Isle Resort & Spa • 4★

Continental breakfast
One-bedroom villa garden view
Sept. 19 & 26 • 1 wk.

$889
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $207

SAINT LUCIA

The Village Inn & Spa • 3★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Sept. 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26 • 1 wk.

$1159
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $232

ANTIGUA

St. James's Club & Villas • 4★

All-Inclusive • Club rm.
Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 1 wk.

$1479
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $240

USA

FLORIDA | Orlando

Clarion Resort & Waterpark • 3★

Double guest rm.
Oct. 1–31 • 5 nts.

$579
+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $136

CRUISE

Carnival Cruise Lines[1]

Carnival Victory®

Southern Caribbean Cruise
Flights to San Juan
Oceanview stateroom, cat. 6B
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+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): $279

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